

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING  
BOARD MEETING  
March 23, 2011  
4:00PM  
Conference Call  
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Carol Lambert	Board Member
Topper Tracy	Board Member		
Sue Austin	Board Member		

Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary	Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel
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PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Merritt Pride, Ben Carlson, Kelly Manzer, Jill Lindell, Lou Wjochowski, Val Crossland, Tom Tucker, Jim Espy, Bill Auger,

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON/VICE CHAIRPERSON: Member Egbert nominated Mike Tatsey as chairperson. Member Austin moved that officers remain the same. Member Lambert seconded the motion. Motion passed. Al Carruthers was elected chairperson and Mike Tatsey was elected vice-chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Member Lambert moved to approve the January 12, 2011 minutes. Member Austin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE: Sherry Meador reported on the progress of SB 16. It passed the Senate committee, full Senate, and House committee with amendment providing spending authority, then full House on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. It was re-referred to House Appropriations because of the amendment and is awaiting hearing.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/SIMULCAST REPORT:

Ryan Sherman reported that simulcast info will be regularly updated on [www.simulcast.com](http://www.simulcast.com). November handle was \$238,760, Dec/\$145,121, Jan/\$222,143, Feb/\$283,143, March (as of 3/22)/\$265,922. We currently have 16 signals and will offer the Dubai Cup 3/25. Belgrade site was added since it had initiated contract proceedings with ME. United Tote is waiting until SB16 passes to sign contract with MBHR.

2011 Live Race Meet/Purse Fund:

Sherman reported that the purse fund is down 10% from 2010.

- a. Great Falls – Merritt Pride reported to the Board that negotiations with Cascade County Commissioners has been back and forth since January. The track needs resurfacing. Com. Salina said they'd have a decision by end of week. Importance of

- keeping counties accountable to racing's economic impact was stressed. Need more positive PR and increase purse money through sponsorships.
- b. Miles City – Running four days.
  - c. Missoula – Fair manager really wants to work with someone to have racing – have contacted Pride but is awaiting answer from Great Falls.
  - d. Billings – Ben Carlson reported there is adequate purse money for 4 days of racing based on conservative estimates and there was a debate over pending legislation and if it could possibly make up some of that difference .
  - e. Kalispell – Chairman Carruthers reported that they planned on running their dates in Kalispell.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Discussion about next board meeting would take place to solidify race dates for this year. Member Tracy said we should have it on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Carruthers stated that may be too soon for tracks to solidify contracts and that by mid-April that we should have a good idea of what Senate Bill 16 has done as well. He also stated that the meeting should be in Helena and not on a conference call. The board agreed to that.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no additional public comment

**ADJOURNMENT:** Member Austin moved to adjourn. Member Lambert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.

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Signature

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Date